Earthquakes are measured by a system called Richter Scales. The Richter Scale is a system that can measure earthquakes on a scale from 1 to 10 for example a 2 is 10x worse than a 1 on a Richter scale. using a seismometer which is able to detect the vibrations an earthquake makes and plots the vibrations down on a chart. A seismometer has to be placed in bedrock example: the side of a mountain.

Earthquakes are also measured by Magnitude. The magnitude of an earthquake is the strength of vibrations of the Earth’s crust. The higher the number, the stronger the earthquake and the more damage the Earthquake causes. The Richter Original magnitude scale (ml) is based on observations of earthquakes measuring the distance of the vibrations and how deep in the ground they appear (the focal depth). Focal depths range between 0 and 700 Km. This is measured because earthquakes excite both body waves, which travel into and through the earth and surface waves, which travel across the earth.

Richter scales

Although similar seismographs had existed since 1890s It was only in 1935 that Charles f. Richter, a seismologist at California institute of technology, introduced the concept of earthquake magnitude.

Questions: 3. What is a magnitude?

1. How are earthquakes measured?

Sources 2. What is a seismometer?

<Http://earthquakeusgs.gov/learntopic/measure.php>

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/geobitesize/geogphy/natural\_hazards/earthquakes \_rev2.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/geobitesize/geogphy/natural_hazards/earthquakes%20_rev2.shtml)